

**Claims**

1. A method of communicating, the method comprising:  
effecting communication between first and second radio transceivers via a  
5 telecommunications network over a first channel;  
determining the distance between the first and second radio transceivers;  
determining whether the distance between the two transceivers meets a  
predetermined threshold; and  
in response to a determination that the threshold is met, effecting direct  
10 mode communication between the first and second radio transceivers over a second  
channel.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, in which the second channel has a greater  
bandwidth than the first channel.
- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising, prior to the  
effecting direct mode communication step, estimating the quality of the second  
channel.
- 20 4. A method according to any preceding claim, in which the determining steps  
are carried out at the first radio transceiver.
- 25 5. A method according to any preceding claim, in which the distance  
determination step includes determining the locations of the first and second radio  
transceivers.
6. A method as claimed in claim 5, in which the location determination involves  
a satellite-based position system.
- 30 7. A method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, in which the location  
determination involves triangulating from plural fixed radio transceivers, preferably  
forming part of the telecommunications network.

8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the first and second channels are of different channel types.

9. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the direct mode communication step is effected only if a bandwidth or other service demand exceeds the capability of the first channel.

10. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, in which the threshold is dependent on the sum of the radio coverage of the first and second radio transceivers.

11. A radio transceiver, comprising:

a communicator for communicating with a remote radio transceiver via a telecommunications network over a first channel;

15 a determiner for determining the distance between the transceiver and the remote transceiver, and for determining whether the distance meets a predetermined threshold; and

20 a channel charger, responsible to a determination that the threshold is met, for effecting direct mode communication between the transceiver and the remote transceiver over a second channel.

12. A radio transceiver as claimed in claim 11, in which the second channel has a greater bandwidth than the first channel.

25 13. A radio transceiver as claimed in claim 11 or claim 12, further comprising an estimator arranged to estimate the quality of the second channel.

14. A radio transceiver as claimed in any of claims 11 to 13, including a satellite positioning receiver, arranged to calculate the location of the transceiver.

30 15. A radio transceiver as claimed in any of claims 11 to 14, in which the first and second channels are of different types.

16. A system for effecting communication between first and second radio transceivers, comprising:

a communicator for effecting communication between the first and second radio transceivers over a first channel;

5 a determiner for determining the distance between the transceivers, and for determining if the distance meets a predetermined threshold; and

a channel changer responsive to a determination that the threshold is met, for effecting direct mode communication between the transceivers over a second channel.